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Identical letters dated 21 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 August 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the active and direct involvement of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in the ongoing United States and British aggression against Iraq in the unlawful no-fly zones. The Minister urges you to condemn these acts of aggression and to intervene with the Governments concerned with a view to halting such acts. He also affirms the right of Iraq to seek compensation for all the damage it has sustained as a result of these attacks.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 21 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I refer to my numerous earlier letters concerning the continuing use by the United States and the United Kingdom of military aircraft in attacks on civilian targets in Iraq which, flouting the rules of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, have resulted in substantial loss of civilian life and property. These acts of aggression have no international legitimacy and are warranted by no mandate from the Security Council or any other United Nations body.

These armed attacks by United States and British aircraft are, in the main, carried out from military bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait with the unconditional approval of the authorities in those two States. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait must therefore be considered as actively and directly involved in the attacks, which they finance and which are carried out from their territory and airspace. Such armed aerial attacks have been carried out against Iraq on a regular basis ever since the 30 Power aggression against Iraq in 1991. Since the most recent United States and British onslaught against Iraq on 17 December 1998, the number of such attacks has increased: as of 12 August 2000, the number of armed aerial sorties carried out by United States and British aircraft from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace was 18,607. These cowardly raids caused 311 civilian fatalities and injured a further 931 citizens, in addition to causing substantial damage to Iraqi civilian installations that has included the destruction of warehouses containing foodstuffs and construction materials and civilian vehicles, the crippling of electrical power and clean drinking water installations and the destruction of a large number of residential buildings.

When Iraq condemns these ongoing criminal attacks, as it did most recently in a speech made on 8 August 2000 by H.E. President Saddam Hussein that made explicit reference to the involvement in such attacks of the Governments of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the Kuwaiti regime whines that Iraq is threatening it, as when its Minister for Foreign Affairs requested a meeting with the permanent Members of the Security Council in order to make allegations that Iraq was threatening his country and urge the Security Council to take the necessary measures in view of the supposed threats. The Kuwaiti regime has made similar approaches to regional and other international organizations, and the Kuwaiti Minister of Defence has placed his troops on alert.

A careful reading of President Saddam Hussein's speech shows that these supposed threats to Kuwait are quite fictitious. The speech complains about and criticizes the ongoing attacks carried out against Iraq with the connivance and participation of two of Iraq's Arab neighbours, who provide facilities for the aggressive United States and British forces and finance their onslaughts. The President described this behaviour as shameful and ignominious, which is an apt description of the situation that has prevailed for the past 10 years, as the following facts illustrate:

1. Military bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are regularly used in the course of attacks on Iraq. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United States and the United Kingdom have openly acknowledged that such bases exist and are used when Iraqi airspace is violated on the pretext of enforcing the so-called no-fly zone in the south of the

country. That zone was imposed as the result of an independent decision taken by the United States and the United Kingdom, has no legal basis or legitimacy, and is categorically rejected by Iraq.

2. The Governments of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait provide facilities for United States and British aircraft carriers, which use regional waters and Saudi and Kuwaiti ports in carrying out attacks on Iraq. No aircraft based on such a carrier is capable of striking against Iraq without flying through Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace.

3. The fact that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have put their land, territorial waters and airspace at the disposal of the United States and the United Kingdom for the purpose of attacking Iraq clearly demonstrates that they are colluding with and participants in aggressive acts against an independent, sovereign State.

4. By its distortion of the facts and its attempts to sully the reputation of Iraq by telling the States of the world that the speech made by H.E. President Saddam Hussein contained threats against it, Kuwait aims to provide the United States and the United Kingdom with a pretext for their attacks on Iraq and ensure that the iniquitous sanctions remain permanently in force against the Iraqi people. This means that they are participants in such attacks and share responsibility for the continuation of the sanctions regime, the killing of Iraqi people and the destruction of Iraqi property.

It would appear that the Saudi and Kuwaiti regimes want Iraq to submit to the attacks without mentioning their involvement in this criminal daily aggression.

While Iraq condemns the repeated criminal attacks and holds Saudi Arabia and Kuwait fully liable for these hostile acts and the resulting material and moral damage, it advises that no fresh act of aggression should be carried out against it. Iraq also urges the Security Council to censure such acts of aggression and intervene with the Governments concerned with a view to halting those acts. Iraq reserves its well-established legal right to seek compensation for all the material and moral damage it has sustained as a result of the attacks, which are in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq